

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the abstract in the above-identified application with the following:

---

al —An apparatus and method for recording and reproducing a sound (i.e. audio) signal corresponding to a video signal at a higher than normal speed. The method delimits a sound signal reproduced at a recording medium at a speed higher than a normal speed into successive processing unit periods. For each processing unit period, sound absence portion(s) of the reproduced sound signal are deleted (or partially deleted) within a range corresponding to a normal speed reproduction. Sound presence portions preceding and following the deleted absence portions are joined or compressed to produce a recognizable sound signal.—

---